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Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 93 (see A/53/608, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 33rd and 39th meetings, on 3 and 16 November 1998. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.33 and 39).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.23

2. At the 33rd meeting, on 3 November, the representative of Indonesia, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s" (A/C.2/53/L.23). Subsequently, *Austria* (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), *Japan*, *Norway* and the *United States of America* joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

3. At the 39th meeting, on 16 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Burak Özügergin (Turkey), informed the Committee of the outcome of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution (see A/C.2/53/SR.39).

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/53/608 and Add.1–7.

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4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.23 (see para. 5).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

5. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/187 of 18 December 1997, in which it decided to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at a high level in the year 2001,

1. *Welcomes and accepts* the generous offer of the European Union to host the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first semester of the year 2001;

2. *Designates* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the Secretary-General of the Conference, and requests him to make all necessary preparations for the Conference;

3. *Decides* to convene the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in the first semester of the year 2001 for a duration of seven days, at a venue and time to be determined by the Secretary-General of the Conference in consultation with the European Union;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference to organize the intergovernmental preparatory committee (in two parts) and the three expert-level preparatory meetings referred to in paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 52/187;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with relevant organizations and agencies, to organize well-focused sectoral and thematic or, where appropriate, country-specific round-table meetings during the Conference to contribute to the work of the Conference;

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank to link the forthcoming round table and consultative group meetings to the preparatory process of the Conference, and to ensure that they make substantive contributions to the Conference;

7. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Convenor of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement in the preparations for the Conference of United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to convene an inter-agency meeting to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of all relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant institutions, for the purpose of preparations for and follow-up to the Conference;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make arrangements, on the basis of consultations with Member States, to facilitate the involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the preparatory process and the Conference;

10. *Decides* to defray the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the work of the intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings and the Conference itself through the use of extrabudgetary resources, and should those resources prove to be insufficient to consider all other options;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to take necessary measures to intensify their public information efforts and other relevant initiatives to enhance public awareness in favour of the Conference, its objectives and its significance;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.